MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He will send you a reply in a letter in response to your letter. This is Question Hour.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask a simple and straight question from the hon'ble Minister. He has termed the report published in "The Hindustan Times" as baseless and said that loss of Rs. 804 crore is not being incurred.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: I have not termed it baseless.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I want to ask how much revenue loss is being incurred every year according to your Department? Because it has become a practice in giving a reply in our parliamentary system that if there is a loss of Rs. 803 crore and if we ask, by mistake, that you are incurring a loss of Rs. 804 crore, you will deny it but you will not give the correct figure of loss. Therefore I want to ask as to how much loss is being incurred every year according to your own Department?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: Sir, there is a report of CAG about the fact that capacity of telephone exchanges have not been fully utilised and I have tried to convince you that it was their technical calculation.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I have simply asked that if it is not Rs. 804 crore, then how much? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: If two persons speak simultaneously, how shall I give answer? If your question is over then I may give my answer. I treat it a technical calculation. I do not treat it as a loss to the Department. *(Interruptions)* If expansion takes place rapidly full utilisation of the capacity is not possible.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Her question is that if the report published in "The Hindustan Times" is wrong then how much loss is being incurred according to your Department?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: This is based on CAG report. We are sending a reply to CAG that it is because of expansion..... *(Interruptions)* There is no loss to the Department.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are not giving reply to even my question.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Do you mean to say that there is no revenue?....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: How much loss is coceded by your Department.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA: We do not treat it loss.

[English]

Establishment of Air India and Indian Airlines

* 384. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons working in Air India and Indian Airlines and the number of operational Aircraft in domestic and international sectors; and

(b) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to provide professional management to the above oraganisations with a view to make them economic viable and more productive?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Air India has 18,502 employees and a fleet of 26 aircraft. Indian Airlines has 21,439 employees and a fleet of 54 aircraft.

(b) Both Air India and Indian Airlines are manned by experienced professionals. They have a Common Board with versatile and qualified members drawn from various fields. Both the organisations are taking steps to improve their product, image and on time performance to attract more passengers and to increase revenue.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: Sir, it appears from the statement that the Indian Airlines is having 54 aircraft and the Air India is having 26 aircraft. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any decision has been taken, keeping in view the increased chain of the passenger traffic in Asia, Africa and also Europe, to increase the fleet of the Air India and whether professional management has been kept in view or not. Sir, I am raising this question because in the tiny nation of Hong Kong, the Cathay Pacific and the Singapore Airlines take over the entire tourist traffic of the Pacific due to their increased fleet. I would like to know why the Air India is failing in this regard.

Sir, the Jumbo Jet takes, from time to time, the Prime Minister and the *Rashtrapatiji* for their visits abroad. During the time the entire passenger amenities are cancelled and all the bookings are also cancelled, thereby causing hardship to the passengers. I want to know whether this position could be looked into that a separate aircraft is arranged for the visits of the Prime Minister and the President without affecting passengers' scheduled trips.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that there is a shortage of aircraft. It is because during the last five years, they are meeting, discussing and putting up the file for the purchase of new aircraft but a decision could not be taken. Last time, the decision in this regard was postponed due to elections. But now I have told them specifically that we have to increase the fleet.

12.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Beni Prasad Varmaji, let the hon. Minister reply.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Number one is we have to increase the flights. Number two is the destinations. Now I have instructed my Department. we are starting four new destinations towards Chicago *via* Toranto and also for Hong Kong region, as the hon. Member has mentioned, *via* Calcutta. We are having an ambitious plan to have international airports even in North East and in Srinagar. We want to show the world what facilities are available there.

The hon. Member has given a suggestion on the cancellation of regular flights and bookings at present. The moment I will get the new fleet, I will request the hon. Prime Minister and the President to have a separate aircraft out of the fleet.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

New Airports

* 385. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 284 on July 11, 1996 and state:

(a) the allocation made during the current year for each of the new airports proposed to be set up;

(b) the status of the construction work, acquisition of land etc. in respect of each of the above airports;

(c) the time by which the new airports are likely to be made operational; and

(d) the details of new airports proposed to be set up during 1997-98, and the funds earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c). A detailed statement indicating the allocation made, status of construction work, time by which the new airports are likely to be made operational is attached.

(d) The plan for 1997-98 is yet to be formulated.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of the New Airport & State	Est. Cost (Rs. In Crores)	Budget Allocation 1996-97	Status of Const. Work & Land Acquisition	Time by which Aerodrom becomes operational
1	2	3	4	5	6
(1)	Devanhalli (Bangalore) Karnataka	770.00 (Ph-I)	Under State Govt. plan through public/ private participation.	(a) Feasibility report submitted by M/s. Tata Industries and the Consortium The report is under study of State Govt. (b) Land acquisition under process by Govt. of Karnataka.	5 years after the award of the work
(2)	Mangalore Karnataka			Central Govt. has accorded approval to the State Govt. of Karnataka for the construction of a new airport near Mangalore by an NRI on Build-Own-Operate basis.	